

Serial No. 09/845,559

Atty Ref. No. 55872 (70840)

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above identified application in view of the preceding amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10 and 12-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 5, 8-10 and 11, and cancelled Claims 2, 7 and 11 without prejudice. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by these amendments, as support therefor is found throughout the specification and drawings.

In the final Office Action dated October 21, 2003, original Claims 2, 7 and 11 were indicated as allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Claim 1 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of original Claims 1 and 2. Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of original Claims 1, 5 and 7. Claim 10 has been rewritten to include the limitations of original Claim 11. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 5 and 10 are now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

In the final Office Action, Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,461,397 to Zhang et al. In view of the amendments herein, the Examiner's grounds for rejection are herewith traversed, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

As noted above, Claims 1, 5 and 10 has been amended to include all of the limitations of previously allowed claims. Accordingly, it is believed that Claims 1, 5, 10 and each of the claims depending therefrom distinguish the subject invention from Zhang et al. and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or overpayments due as a result of filing the present paper may be applied to Deposit Account No. 04-1105. It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now remaining in this application are in condition for allowance, and such action

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is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this amendment, the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would facilitate the resolution of any remaining matters the undersigned attorney may be contacted at the number set forth herein below.

Respectfully submitted,

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